

"Caring for our environment"

Centre : **REDCROSS**
County : **WICKLOW**
Category : **A**

Results

Date of Adjudication : 06-07-1999

	Maximum Mark	Mark Awarded 1999	Mark Awarded 1998
Overall Developmental Approach	50	27	26
The Built Environment	40	22	21
Landscaping	40	22	22
Wildlife and Natural Amenities	30	16	15
Litter Control	40	28	27
Tidiness	20	13	15
Residential Areas	30	19	18
Roads, Streets and Back Areas	40	23	24
General Impression	10	5	5
TOTAL MARK	300	175	173

Redcross, County Wicklow

OVERALL DEVELOPMENTAL APPROACH

Thank you for your entry form and map which was helpful during adjudication. The adjudicator refers you to the comments made in last years report in relation to the 3 - 5 Year Development Plan which is one of the requirements of the competition. With just 6 members in the committee, you probably had a large task in preparing this. The assistance of FAS to get things done as has already helped out might be a source of additional help in developing projects. Congratulations are also due to organisations like Macra na Feirme for the Window Box competition.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Upgrading of street lighting and other comments made in your plan such as derelict buildings and your plan to upgrade the Community Centre are to be commended. However none of these had taken place on day of adjudication. Building was noted in progress on the approach from the N11 and allowances were made for pipe laying on the road which was taken place at this time. The Church of Ireland grounds were well maintained and add to the overall effect of the village. Redcross National Schools / Community Hall needs cleaning, weeds were very evident in the car park here and the grass had not been cut on day of adjudication. The adjudicator recognises that you are trying to upgrade the community centre. The school has attractive grounds. However the tower would benefit from a cleaning or painting. Also try to paint the swings in the school in bright colours and paint the gate at the school. It is good to see that in general, commercial premises were painted this year.

LANDSCAPING

The Church of Ireland grounds were very well presented. The main street and the junction with the Conary Road was also noted. Slightly better care could be taken here, a suggestion might perhaps be to consider having more flower tubs along the main street to break the openness of the built up area and to introduce some colour. In particular the adjudicator would like to commend the efforts made at Rivervalley Caravan Park in the presentation and maintenance of the roses.

WILDLIFE AND NATURAL AMENITIES

Redcross is surrounded on all sides by countryside providing opportunities for enhancement and improved accessibility to wildlife and natural amenities. An important

part of this should be the inclusion of a schools education programme that would help not just the school children but also the residents to the village. Try to get additional help from some local natural and wildlife experts to see how you can enhance your efforts in this category. The Tidy Towns handbook can give you additional guidance. Having said that it is good to see wild flowers growing near hedge rows on approach roads. The challenge is how to make your natural amenities more accessible for residents and visitors without causing an imbalance.

LITTER CONTROL

A litter bin was noted on the corner of the Avoca road, well done. The bin was full outside Rivervalley Caravan Park; perhaps there is a need for greater maintenance here; litter control along the main street is to be commended

TIDINESS

The re cycling bank was noted in the Rivervalley Caravan Park. Try to clean the Redcross Community Centre sign which is somewhat untidy; also try to avoid the dumping of the gravel on the road to the Community Centre. Graffiti was noted on some signs suggesting need for more vigilance. Weeds were also noted by kerbing opposite the Church of Ireland and at the bridge at the main street.

RESIDENTIAL AREAS

A new residential development was noted on the approach road from Avoca with small houses which will be nice when it is completed. Closer in most premises are well maintained. Very good individual efforts were noted at a house opposite the entrance to the Community Hall with its use of roses. While another house near the Community Centre had also made very good effort with flowers. These examples demonstrate good individual efforts which should be extended onto other premises in years to come.

ROADS, STREETS AND BACK AREAS

On the approach road from Lil Doyles the grass verges had not been cut. The Redcross sign was dirty and the area around it was overgrown, weeds were noted at the base of the bridge. On the approach from Avoca, verges had a rough cut; there is a need to replace yield sign. Try to maintain cobble locking at this area better. Surfacing is needed into the Community Centre. On the approach road from Barrinisky, the grassed area at Oghill Turn was very well maintained and provides a lovely vista surrounding the countryside. Try to replace or clean the yellow junction sign. Graffiti noted on the Redcross sign should be addressed and the use of weed killers on the left hand side of the road is unsightly and should be minimised. On the

approach from Conary good presentation was noted closer in with tree planting on the right hand side coming on very well.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

Redcross is a small village with very few buildings. Obviously the road works taking place took from the overall impact this year. However, small combined efforts can go a long way in the presentation of the village. You really do need to up-date your plans in light of the fact that in future years, Redcross may undergo a significant population expansion due to new houses being developed. You will have to make allowances for that to maintain the integrity of the village. Good luck in this regard.